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ARRL Tennessee Section
East Tennessee Wildfire Update

Wildfires in-and-around the cities of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge have prompted State agencies and local officials to evacuate thousands of residents and visitors from Sevier County last night

The Chimney Top Fire, which began in the Great Smoky Mountains, spread very rapidly yesterday evening as high winds pushed flames. Numerous roads remain closed and blocked by fallen trees and power lines. State Highway 441 into Gatlinburg is closed. Only emergency traffic and outbound evacuation traffic is allowed.

The American Red Cross has opened shelters in Sevier County and local Amateur Radio Operators are providing communications support to those shelters.

At this point no additional Amateur Radio Support has been requested. Members of nearby ARES® groups should remain aware of the potential for this situation to change rapidly.

- All requests for additional support will come from State and local served agencies or through the ARES® chain of command.
- **DO NOT SELF-DEPLOY.** If you show up uninvited, you will be sent home.

Additional information regarding the wildfire situation in East Tennessee can be found on the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency Website
<http://www.tnema.org/index.php>.

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The widest distribution within the Tennessee Amateur Radio Community is requested.